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# Disaster Assistance Guide

*United We Stand*

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FEMA photo by Andrea Booher

The U.S. flag flies over debris at the World Trade Center site as Urban Search and Rescue teams remove debris and search for survivors.

## WTC victims receive wide array of aid

Thousands of people lost their lives and thousands more were injured when terrorists crashed jetliners into the World Trade Center (WTC) towers on Sept. 11.

President Bush immediately responded to New York Gov. George E. Pataki's request and issued a major disaster declaration for that state. The president then responded to the request of Acting Gov. Donald T. DiFrancesco of New Jersey and issued an emergency declaration for New Jersey's 21 counties in support of the WTC disaster.

The New Jersey declaration authorized 100 percent federal coverage for emergency protective measures. New Jersey residents affected by the disaster also became eligible for certain crime victims benefits through the New York Crime Victims Board, the New Jersey Violent Crimes Compensation Board, the American Red Cross, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) designated six New Jersey counties that are contiguous to New York for

Economic Injury Disaster Loans to small business owners.

"My heart and prayers are with the families of those who were killed and injured," FEMA Director Joe M. Allbaugh said. "All of FEMA's resources are available to assist in this catastrophe. We will do all we can."

Because of the nature and magnitude of this disaster, an unprecedented array of help is available to victims, their families and affected businesses. This includes FEMA and other federal and state disaster assistance programs, such as special programs for victims of crime and public safety officers, in addition to private funds that have been set up specifically for victims of this disaster. (See next column for more assistance information.)

Additional disaster information is on the FEMA web site, [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), and [www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov).

### IMPORTANT RELIEF INFORMATION

New Jersey victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in New York and their families may be eligible for a wide variety of benefits from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal, state and local agencies.

Under the Victims of Crime Act, administered by the New York Dept. of Justice, victims can be compensated for things such as medical bills, mental health counseling, funeral expenses, lost wages or loss of support. New Jersey residents may apply for this assistance by calling the State Family Assistance Center, **866-652-7474 (866-NJ CRISIS)**.

FEMA may provide assistance to New Jersey victims of the New York disaster who suffered lost jobs, loss of personal property or need mortgage and rental assistance because of the attacks. See page 3 for other types of aid that may be available. To register for FEMA assistance, call **800-462-9029**.

Small business owners in Bergen, Hudson, Middlesex, Passaic, Sussex and Union counties should seek Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) if their operation has been affected by the attacks. Call SBA at **800-659-2955** for information.

#### APPLY BY PHONE

**800-462-9029**  
(TTY: 1-800-462-7585)  
TOLLFREE  
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
seven days a week

#### FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER

##### APPLY BY PHONE

**866-652-7474**  
TOLLFREE  
7 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Seven days a week



